

The LaGrange Troup County Chamber looks forward to continuing to support efforts to alleviate challenges in workforce development and strengthen supply chain resiliency.

Sincerely,

CONNIE HENSLER,
President and CEO.

MARCH 2, 2022.

Senator RAPHAEL WARNOCK.

DEAR SENATOR WARNOCK: On behalf of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, I am excited to offer this letter in support of the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act as well as the America COMPETES Act. As our economy and workforce continue to change, we believe that strengthening our ability to compete globally is key to our long-term success. The Chamber is actively engaged in supporting and enhancing our local community as a regional catalyst in economic growth, workforce development, community vibrancy, and inclusion.

We are hopeful that the passing of this bill means stronger funding and policy support for regional job growth; especially with support for semi-conductor manufacturing that further enables technology manufacturing and strengthens Georgia's automobile industry, the outcome of alleviating supply chain obstacles and the inclusion of historic investments in commercial development and science and technology. Further, strengthening the designated innovation hub between Columbus and Opelika remains an important focus and we'd look forward to the availability of funding to support research and development and commercialization in this arena.

Lastly, as we tackle the challenge of building a world class workforce in a tough environment, support via workforce development programs and funding is imperative.

Please accept our support for SB 1260, the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act. We look forward to this advancing and to continuing to build a strong Columbus, a strong Georgia and a strong nation. Thanks for your continued partnership.

Very respectfully,

JERALD MITCHELL,
President and CEO.

JUNE 16, 2022.

Hon. Rev. RAPHAEL WARNOCK,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REVEREND WARNOCK: As Director of the Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (GaMEP), I want to thank you for your ongoing efforts to enhance Georgia's innovation and manufacturing sectors and work to strengthen U.S. competitiveness. Each year, GaMEP assists more than 1,000 small and medium-sized manufacturers across Georgia through onsite implementation, training and learning opportunities, connections to partners, and other resources. I hope you can further support the success of Georgia's manufacturing sector in your important role as Senate conferee to the bicameral conference for the United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA, S. 1260) and the America COMPETES Act of 2022 (COMPETES Act, H.R. 4521).

These important bills under negotiation have the potential to transform the U.S. economy by spurring new innovations in emerging technologies, jumpstarting our domestic semiconductor production capabilities, and dramatically expanding and solidifying the resiliency of the U.S. manufacturing base. I strongly encourage the inclusion in the final conference agreement the proposed increase of authorized funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Part-

nership (MEP) program and the establishment of a National Manufacturing Advisory Council as outlined in both the Senate USJCA and the House COMPETES Act. The bills also include important provisions to create new supply chain resiliency programs to identify, prepare for, and respond to threats to the U.S. supply chain. Looking toward development of future and emerging industries, manufacturers will also have an important role in furthering Georgia's economic development through the proposed Department of Commerce Regional Technology Hubs program. Without actual funding behind these tremendously important policy proposals, these activities may never advance. As such, I encourage Congress to include appropriated funding to begin these efforts.

GaMEP is proud to promote the success of the manufacturing industry within Georgia and support our manufacturers to be globally competitive. The competitiveness legislation under negotiation will propel our efforts even further. I urge Congress to come to a final agreement, which includes these important manufacturing and supply chain provisions, and swiftly enact this crucial legislation. I want to reiterate my appreciation for your work to support the manufacturing and innovation industries in Georgia and I would be happy to answer any questions you or your office may have.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY D. ISRAEL,
*Director, Georgia Institute of
Technology—Georgia Manufacturing
Extension Partnership.*

TRIBUTE TO KAREN FISHER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Karen Fisher for her decades of leadership toward innovation and systematic change to improve the health of Americans. Karen may be retiring from a momentous health policy career, but the Nation will long feel the positive impact of her work.

From 2011 to 2016, the Senate Finance Committee was fortunate to benefit from Karen's expertise on the Medicare program and other key health policy issues. Serving as senior health counsel, Karen led the committee's work in 2015 to permanently repeal the outdated and flawed sustainable growth rate—SGR—formula previously used to determine Medicare physician payments and to replace it with a new payment system that advances value-based care for the millions who rely on the Medicare program as a lifeline.

In addition to her historic role in permanently retiring the SGR, Karen oversaw legislative activities related to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation—CMMI—and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute—PCORI—as she uplifted the transformative effect alternative payment models could have in driving greater commitments to quality and value in healthcare. She also served—and continues to serve—as a mentor to early-career staff on the Committee and across Capitol Hill, offering professional guidance and networking opportunities for the next generation of female leaders.

At the Association of American Medical Colleges—AAMC—Karen has con-

tinued her commitment to improve healthcare through public policy. Throughout her nearly 6 years as chief public policy officer, the AAMC has been an important voice on the need to expand access to healthcare nationwide by strengthening coverage through both the Affordable Care Act and the Medicaid program and by addressing shortages of physicians and other health professionals.

Her more than 25 years of experience also have been an essential asset during the COVID pandemic, as she liaised between Federal policymakers and the academic medicine community to support the heroic efforts of the country's health professionals and scientists in treating patients, expanding access to telehealth, developing and administering COVID tests, advancing research on new countermeasures, developing and deploying vaccines, and enhancing health equity interventions.

I know that I speak for health policy professionals nationwide as I express my gratitude for Karen's dedication, talent, mentorship, leadership, and persistence in public service and in betterment of the Nation's health.

Thank you, Karen. I am wishing you and your family all the best for a very well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ACKLEY PADILLA

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to proudly recognize the outstanding public service of Ackley Padilla, my brother, who is retiring after nearly two decades of helping to lead the city of Los Angeles.

Ackley is a proud son of Pacoima, CA—and I know that Pacoima takes incredible pride in him. Ackley, my sister Julie, and I all learned to value public service from our parents, Santos and Lupe Padilla. Ackley made his career serving the people of the San Fernando Valley while working for a number of local elected officials.

Ackley worked for the first Latino and the first Latina presidents of the Los Angeles City Council. And, yes, that means that I was once his boss. For the past 9 years, he has worked for council president Nury Martinez. As her chief of staff, he has been crucial to Los Angeles's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including getting testing and vaccination sites up and running, as well as food distribution sites and other assistance for families in need.

In addition to his public service, Ackley is a passionate fan of the Angels and the Clippers—and known hater of the Lakers and the Dodgers. He clearly followed his father instead of his brother on those decisions. Ackley is a proud dad to three wonderful girls—Kaylyn, Kathryn and Khloey—and a proud handyman. He has come to love his minivan, "Pony Boy," and will surely drive into many adventures in the years ahead.

The people of Pacoima, the San Fernando Valley, and all of Los Angeles have benefited from Ackley's public

service. I wish him the best in his next chapter. And I promise an extra cold refreshment on the next trip to Canelo's.

TRIBUTE TO CAMILLE PEASE

Mr. KING. Mr. President, as most of us here in the Senate know, this Chamber functions with a dedicated and able staff to support us. Because we are a relatively small body that has to oversee the actions of the far larger executive branch, we rely on specialists detailed from other Agencies throughout the government. It is really a two-way deal. When they come here, they learn about the intricacies of the legislative process and get to participate in it. In return, we benefit from their years of experience in the Agency they come from.

In my case as chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee, we rely on the Government Accountability Office or GAO staff who specialize in nuclear and space systems to help us on the programmatic details of a multitude of programs in the Department of Energy and Defense, and every year, the committee sponsors one of them to spend a year with us.

For the past year, we were fortunate enough to have Ms. Camille Pease with us from the GAO as our detailee, and now, her year is up, and she is heading back.

Because of the way the Armed Services Committee works in preparing for a markup, members such as myself and Senator FISCHER, our ranking member on the subcommittee, spend a tremendous amount of time with staff, including Cami, on hearings and briefings in order to build a legislative record and develop legislation for our annual markup of the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA. In every aspect, Cami was there to enrich us with her expertise on the National Nuclear Security Administration. In return, I hope she is wiser on how we work in this Chamber, and in the Armed Services Committee in particular, on a bipartisan legislative process that has managed to produce a NDAA for the past 61 years.

So we thank you, Cami, for spending time with us, and we wish you the best on your return to the GAO. We hope your time with us will help you in the years to come. I hope you take back to the GAO that, when it comes to the national security of this nation, and the NDAA in particular, this Chamber does work in a bipartisan and productive fashion, and it is my hope it will continue to do so in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE NORTH GREENVILLE UNIVERSITY CRUSADERS

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the North Green-

ville University Crusaders baseball team for winning the 2022 NCAA Baseball Division II National Championship.

The Crusaders outscored their four World Series opponents by a combined 34-12. Their victory earned the program its first national championship and marked the second Conference Carolinas baseball team to win the title.

Throughout the season, Landon Powell, head coach of the Crusaders, was consistently a role model to the players. When he was hired in 2014, the Crusaders were 8-35 and had three and one-half scholarship players. Coach Powell turned the team around and guided them to a 29-25 winning record in his first year; since then, the Crusaders have consistently averaged more than 41 wins per season.

On the field, Jax Cash went three for four at the plate and drove in the final run of the game. Reece Fields pitched 5.0 innings, allowing one run on six hits, three walks, eight strikeouts, and was named the tournament MVP. Nate Roof pitched 3.0 innings, allowing no runs, two hits, and a walk. The entire team should be proud of their hard work and accomplishments. The North Greenville baseball team displayed outstanding dedication and teamwork throughout the season and brought pride to the State of South Carolina. The university, under the leadership of Dr. Gene C. Fant, Jr., and Coach Powell, has much to be proud of, and I look forward to another great season by the Crusaders.

I ask that our colleagues join me in congratulating the North Greenville University Crusaders baseball team for winning the 2022 NCAA Baseball Division II National Championship. •

TRIBUTE TO RON NUTZ

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and thank Mr. Ron Nutz of Haddam, KS.

Last September, I traveled to Washington County and met many outstanding Kansans, amongst them was Mr. Ron Nutz. Ron is responsible for spearheading the construction of the Mark Nutsch Horse Soldier Monument and the 9/11 Memorial in Washington County, KS. Mark Nutsch served as a Ranger in the Army and as a special forces officer, deploying on multiple combat tours. Shortly following the 9/11 attacks on our country, he led his team into northern Afghanistan and fought against the Taliban and al-Qaeda, much of the time on horseback.

I would like to thank Ron for the work he has done towards the completion of this project. The monument will depict a soldier on horseback and will also incorporate the stone, lapis lazuli, which is found throughout Afghanistan. The groundbreaking ceremony will be held on June 27.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ron Nutz for all of his hard work, as well as in wishing him nothing but success in the future. •

TRIBUTE TO DALE W. MOORE

• Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Dale W. Moore for dedicating more than 40 years of his professional life to being a champion for agriculture in the public and private sector.

For the past 10 years, Dale has served farmers and ranchers as a leader at the American Farm Bureau Federation, first as executive director, public policy, then vice president, public affairs, and finally spending the past 4 years of his career serving as the executive vice president.

Dale served as chief of staff at the U.S. Department of Agriculture under four Secretaries of Agriculture, served as legislative director for the House Agriculture Committee, and as a legislative assistant for then-Representative Pat Roberts, who represented the "Big First" district of Kansas.

Dale's Kansas roots run deep. He is a native of Copeland, KS, with a population of approximately 250 people. Dale grew up on a livestock, hay, and grain farm, where he learned firsthand the intricacies of agriculture, the value of hard work, and fostered an appreciation of rural America that he carried with him throughout his entire career.

Dale received a bachelor of science in animal science and biology from Fort Hays State University, located in Hays, KS, where he participated in activities such as Rodeo Club, Block and Bridle Club, and Delta Tau Alpha.

In all of his roles throughout his illustrious career, Dale earned a reputation that continues with him today as a mentor, problem solver, counselor, and storyteller whose commitment sets a shining example for policymakers across the political spectrum. Dale has not only been an advocate for farmers and ranchers, but has contributed to the strength of American farm and ranch families, serving as a trusted friend and advisor to many.

On behalf of this body, the U.S. Senate, it my honor to recognize and thank Dale W. Moore for his dedication to agriculture and service to the American Farm Bureau Federation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Congress and to congratulate him on his retirement. •

CENTENNIAL OF DAVIESS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, today I want to honor the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Daviess County Farm Bureau. Established in 1922 by a handful of people, the Daviess County Farm Bureau quickly grew to include approximately 100 farmers. With membership dues of only \$2, the organization was forced to meet wherever it could: the courthouse, the rural electric office, and even members' homes. It was in these early meetings that the Daviess County Farm Bureau first dedicated itself to advocacy on behalf